Arguments / Remarks

Claims 1-20 remain in the application. Claims 1-7, 10-16, 19 and 20 stand rejected. Claims 8, 9, 17 and 18 stand objected to as being dependent on other rejected claims, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form.

1. Rejection of Claims 1-7, 10-16, 19 and 20 Under 35 USC 103

Claims 1-7, 10-16, 19 and 20 stand rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Colby et al. (US Pat. No. 6,622,271; hereinafter "Colby") in view of Gygi et al. (US Pub. No. 2003/0235156 A1; hereinafter "Gygi").

Applicants' claim 1 recites:

1.   Apparatus, comprising:
computer readable media; and
program code, stored on the computer readable media, comprising:
        code to define a user interface;
        code to detect invalid test definition data in user input and, upon detection of invalid test definition data, prompt a user to select a valid data option from a set of valid data options; said prompting being undertaken through the user interface; and
        code to receive a valid data option selected through the user interface, and to update the invalid test definition data with the valid data option.

With respect to applicants' claim 1, the Office Action urges that Colby teaches:

        computer readable media; and
        program code, stored on the computer readable media (figures 1A and 1B), comprising:
        code to define a user interface 72 (figure 1A) (col. 4, lines 41-48);
        code to detect invalid test definition data in user input (col. 4, lines 54-67 to col. 5, lines 1-4; col. 11, lines 45-57; col. 12, lines 20-29); and
        code to receive a valid data option selected through the user interface, and to update the invalid test definition data with the valid data option (col. 11, lines 52-57).

12/28/07 Office Action, p. 1.

Applicants respectfully disagree that Colby teaches "code to receive a valid data option **selected** through the user interface" as recited in claim 1. The word "selected" in claim 1 indicates that at least one valid data option is provided for the user to select in order to attempt to address the invalid input. To the contrary, Colby fails to disclose providing valid data options to select from, and therefore cannot disclose "code to receive a valid data option **selected** through the user interface" as recited in claim 1. Rather, Colby merely teaches providing a warning message without suggesting options for the user to select from to remedy the problem. Colby's user must generate the input to remedy the problem without assistance from the program beyond that a problem has been detected.

In view of the above discussion, applicants respectfully submit that Colby fails to disclose "code to receive a valid data option selected through the user interface" as recited in claim 1. Additionally, the Office Action acknowledges that Colby fails to disclose "upon detection of invalid test definition data, prompt a user to select a valid data option from a set of valid data options; said prompting being undertaken through the user interface" as recited in claim 1. *See* 12/28/07 Office Action, pp. 2-3.

In order to address these deficiencies, the Office Action urges that Gygi discloses:

> code to detect invalid test definition data in user input and, upon detection of invalid test definition data, prompt a user to select a valid option from a set of valid data options...

12/28/07 Office Action, p. 3.

Applicants respectfully disagree. While Gygi appears to teach prompting a user to select a valid option from a set of valid data options, Gygi fails to teach a) code to detect invalid test definition data in user input and b) prompting a user to select a valid option from a set of valid data options **after detecting invalid test definition data**.

With respect to a), it is respectfully submitted that no portion of Gygi sufficiently teaches scrutinizing data provided by a user to determine if the data is valid or invalid. The Office Action points out that in paragraph [0048], Gygi teaches definitions of parameters may include ranges of permissible values. However, applicants respectfully submit that such a teaching does not rise to the level of "code to detect invalid test definition data" as recited in claim 1. Merely setting the range of permissible values for a parameter as disclosed in Gygi is not equivalent to detecting invalid data. A detecting step typically requires the code to receive the data, consider the data, and make a determination as to the validity or invalidity of the data. None of these steps are inherent to a teaching of setting permissible values for a parameter. Absent further disclosure as to **how the code treats an input falling outside of the range of permissible values**, applicants respectfully submit that Gygi fails to disclose "code to detect invalid test definition data in user input."

With respect to b), it is respectfully submitted that no portion of Gygi sufficiently teaches prompting a user to select a valid option from a set of valid data options **after detecting invalid test definition data**. This is true at least in part because of the discussion above with respect to the failure of Gygi to teach code to detect invalid test definition data in user input. Without a teaching of code to detect invalid test definition data, it is not possible for Gygi to teach prompting a user to select a valid option from a set of valid data options **after detecting invalid test definition data**.

The Office Action cites several portions of the Gygi reference that have been interpreted as teaching prompting a user to select a valid option from a set of valid data options after detecting invalid test definition data. Applicants respectfully disagree that any of the cited portions of the reference teach prompting a user to select a valid option from a set of valid data options after detecting invalid test definition data.

The Office Action first cites the portion of paragraph [0048] that reads:

The definitions includes types and ranges of permissible values as well as user interface information to prompt the test operator for desired values.

12/28/07 Office Action, p. 5.

In response, applicants begin by noting that the invention of Gygi is generally directed to a flexible command language that a test designer can use to dictate what commands and requests for information are given to a test operator **when starting a test vehicle**. Accordingly, the prompting referred to in the cited portion above occurs prior to starting the selected test vehicle and not in response to a detected invalid input. That is to say, the prompting in Gygi serves as a start-up guide and occurs before any input has been entered by the test operator. Therefore, applicants respectfully submit that this portion of Gygi does not teach the claim element of prompting a user to select a valid option from a set of valid data options **after detecting invalid test definition data**.

Additionally, a teaching of prompting a test operator for desired values is not equivalent to providing a set of valid data options to select from. In the portion of Gygi above, the prompt merely indicates that a value should be entered without providing suggested values to select from. Accordingly, this portion of Gygi does not teach the claim element of prompting a user to select a valid option **from a set of valid data options** after detecting invalid test definition data.

The Office Action next cites the portion of paragraph [0050] that states:

> Fields of the keywords to define a parameter also include text used to present readable options to the test operator to select desired values for the various parameters of the test vehicle.

12/28/07 Office Action, pp. 5-6.

The sentence preceding this statement in paragraph [0050] of Gygi states that the command language includes a number of keywords or directive to define the nature of each parameter to be supplied to the test vehicle **on startup**. Thus, any options provided to the test operator are presented prior to starting a test and **not in response to an invalid data input**. Accordingly, this portion of Gygi does

not teach the claim element of prompting a user to select a valid option from a set of valid data options **after detecting invalid test definition data**.

The Office Action next cites the portion of paragraph [0051] that states:

> Fields of the parameter keyword allow the parameter to be defined as a specific type such as a numeric value or a list of enumerated values for the user to choose from (i.e., a list of options)... Still other fields allow a test designer to provide textual help messages to describe, for example, the usage of the parameter or permissible values for the parameter.

12/28/07 Office Action, p. 6.

With respect to the first sentence, Gygi teaches that a list of enumerated values may be provided during start-up of the test vehicle and **not after detecting invalid data input**. Gygi provides no indication that the program is designed to present a list of enumerated values after the program has detected an invalid entry. Similarly, the second sentence provides no clear indication that a textual help message is presented **after the program has detected an invalid entry**. Rather, it appears that Gygi teaches a prompt for initial start-up data wherein the prompt includes the textual help message or a button (such as a "question mark" button located next to the field where start-up data is entered) that a test operator can click on to bring up the textual help message. Ultimately, neither sentence of the above passage clearly teaches that suggested valid data input is provided **after entry and detection of invalid data input**.

Because the teachings of Gygi related to providing a test operator with a suggested list of values to select from are limited to **start-up** situations, one of ordinary skill in the art would not be motivated or find it obvious to implement the teachings of Gygi at a point in the code of Colby after an invalid data entry has been detected. At best, the teachings of Gygi could be combined at the beginning of the method of Colby such that start-up prompts including suggested values are provided before the first data entry in the method of Colby.

Claim 1 is believed allowable for the above reasons.

Claims 2-13 are believed allowable, at least, because they depend from claim 1.

Claims 14-20 are believed allowable, at least, for reasons similar to why claim 1 is believed allowable.

Claims 2-5 and 16 are also believed allowable over the combined teachings of Colby and Gygi for additional reasons, as set forth below.

Claim 2, from which claims 3-5 depend, recites:

> The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the program code further comprises code to compile the set of valid data options based on a context of the invalid test definition data.

With respect to applicants' claim 2, the Examiner asserts that Gygi teaches "code to compile the set of valid data options based on a context of the invalid test definition data." In the Office Action mailed 12/28/07, the Office Action specifically cites the sentence of paragraph [0048] of Gygi that reads:

> ...the definitions includes types and ranges of permissible values as well as user interface information to prompt the test operator for desired values.

Office Action 12/28/07, p. 6.

Applicants respectfully disagree. Firstly, as described in greater detail above, Gygi fails to disclose detecting invalid test definition data. Accordingly, it is not possible for Gygi to disclose compiling a set of valid data options **based on a context of the invalid test definition** when no invalid test definition is detected in the first place. Furthermore, applicants see nothing in the above passage that teaches or suggests compiling the set of valid data options based on the context of the invalid test definition data. The passage indicates that when defining a parameter, the test designer may stipulate a range of permissible values. Such a stipulation is set prior to running a test vehicle and is wholly independent of any analysis conducted on the invalid test definition data collected while running a test vehicle.

Claim 2, and its dependent claims 3-5, are believed allowable for the above additional reason.

Claim 16 is believed allowable for reasons similar to why claim 2 is believed allowable.
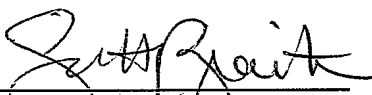
2. Allowable Claims

Applicants appreciate the Examiner's indication that claims 8, 9, 17 and 18 are allowable but for their dependence upon a rejected base claim. However, applicants prefer to leave these claims in their current form until the Examiner has considered the above remarks and arguments.

3. Conclusion

In summary, the art of record does not teach nor suggest the subject matter of applicants' claims 1-20. These claims are therefore believed to be allowable.

Respectfully submitted,
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